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From on board the Barfleur in the Road of Trapani, April 10, *N. S.*

AFter ſeveral Meſſages between the Imperial and Spaniſh Camps, relating to a Treaty for a Ceſſation of Arms, without Effect; General Mercy and Admiral Byng judged it neceſſary to write a Letter on the 31ſt of laſt Month to the Marqueſs de Lede, deſiring his poſitive Anſwer whether he had full Powers to treat of a Suſpenſion of Arms and of the Evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia, and in Caſe he had, propoſing an Interview at a Houſe called the Caſſine du Roſſignol between the two Camps, leaving it to him to appoint the Day and the Number of Guards he would bring with him. On the 1ſt Inſtant the Marqueſs de Lede ſent a Trumpeter with a Letter to acquaint General Mercy and Admiral Byng, that the next Day at Noon he would meet them at the Caſſine they had propoſed, attended by 200 Horſe. They all met accordingly, and in the Conference they had together the Marqueſs de Lede acknowledged that he knew the King his Maſter had ſigned the Quadruple Alliance, and did not doubt his Intention was to evacuate Sicily purſuant to the Treaty; but declared he had not Orders to treat about it, that he expected full Powers and Inſtructions very ſoon, and wiſhed that in the mean while a Ceſſation of Arms might be agreed on. He was asked what Propoſals he had to make for that Purpoſe, he anſwered none, unleſs that each Army ſhould remain on the Ground they poſſeſſed, till he ſhould receive Orders to treat of the Evacuation. General Mercy and Admiral Byng not judging it reaſonable that the Imperialiſts ſhould be reſtrained to a Tract of Country where they could not well ſubſiſt themſelves, asked the Marqueſs de Lede, whether in Caſe they ſhould conſent to his keeping Poſſeſſion of Palermo, he had Power to agree to give up to the Imperialiſts Auguſta and the other Poſts on the other Side of the Iſland, which were now of no manner of uſe to him, and ſo he might draw to his Army the Garriſons and Troops he had on that Side, in order to the Evacuation; he replied, that he could not yield up or quit the Poſſeſſion of any Part of the Iſland till he had received Orders from the King his Maſter; and thereupon he read Part of his Inſtructions: On the other hand General Mercy produced Part of the Inſtructions he had from the Emperour, which ordered him to agree to a Suſpenſion of Arms for proceeding to the Evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia, and to concert with the Marqueſs de Lede the neceſſary Conditions for facilitating the ſame, and for adjuſting this Affair by all reaſonable Meaſures; but directing him, that if the Marqueſs de Lede ſhould alledge he had not Orders, or ſhould evade them to gain Time under Pretence of ſending to Madrid for further Inſtructions, and ſhould decline naming a reaſonable Term for beginning to imbark Part of his Troops, in ſuch Caſe he (General Mercy) ſhould make uſe of Arms to oblige the Marqueſs de Lede to execute the Treaty which the Miniſter of Spain had ſigned at the Hague. At the ſame time General Mercy told the Marqueſs de Lede, that the 17th of April was underſtood to be the Term on which the Evacuation ought to begin; but that if it was not poſſible for him to begin it ſo ſoon, he would make no Difficulty of lengthening that Term ſome Days, provided the Evacuation were in ſome Manner or other ſettled between them. General Mercy offered him likewiſe the Tranſports which were kept in Readineſs for his Service, and aſſured him that he would accommodate his Troops at their Imbarkation, and oblige him in any thing elſe that he could reaſonably demand. Admiral Byng gave him the like Aſſurances on his Part, and that he ſhould have ſuch a Convoy of the King his Maſter's Ships as he ſhould deſire. The Conference paſſed without the leaſt Heat, the Marqueſs de Lede owning that all the General and Admiral had ſaid was reaſonable, and profeſſing that he was ſorry he had not Orders. So the Conference was ended without any Reſolution taken. On the 4th Inſtant Captain Falkingham of the Orford, who had cruiſed off Palermo and intercepted a Felucca which had been diſpatched by Cardinal Acquaviva at Rome to the Marqueſs de Lede with Packets of Letters, brought thoſe Packets to Admiral Byng at Caſtel Vetrano. General Mercy and the Admiral agreed to ſend them unopened to the Marqueſs de Lede. On the 5th the Admiral left the Camp and returned to Trapani; and the Imperial Army marched from Caſtel Vetrano towards the Spaniards. This Evening an Officer ſent by General Mercy came on Board, and gave the Admiral an Account, that the Imperial Army had advanced on the 7th to Sta. Nympha, on the 8th to Fournarée, and on the 9th to Alcamo; and that the Spaniſh Army had decamped from Alcamo the 7th in the Evening with Precipitation, leaving ſome of their Sick behind them. The Imperialiſts having taken Poſſeſſion of the Caſtle in the Gulph of Caſtellamare, which the Spaniards has abandoned, General Mercy had written to Admiral Byng, to deſire him to ſend him a Supply of Proviſions from Trapani thither by Sea.

From on board the Barfleur in the Road of Trapani, April 12, *N. S.* This Morning Baron Neyperg arrived from General Mercy, to confer with Admiral Byng about the neceſſary Diſpoſitions for ſupplying the Imperial Army with Proviſions and Ammunition by Sea. Which Diſpoſitions being ſettled between them, the ſaid Baron is gone back; and it is believed General Mercy will march again from Alcamo towards the Spaniſh Army, or towards Palermo, within theſe three Days. But it is hoped that before he approaches either of them, the Marqueſs de Lede will receive proper Orders to agree at once upon a Ceſſation of Arms and the Manner of evacuating Sicily. On the 8th the Marqueſs de Lede decamped from Valguarnera, and on the 9th removed to Montreal, which was three Marches diſtant from Alcamo.

St. James's,